

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 16521 291619Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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R 291547Z NOV 76  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9312  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T CAIRO 16521

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, EG, IS, US  
SUBJ: FAHMY ON ISRAELI RIG IN BLOCK 305

REF CAIRO 16203,

1. DURING MEETING WITH FAHMY TODAY, HE RAISED THE MATTER OF THE ISRAELI RIG NOW BEGINNING TO DRILL IN THE NORTHEASTERN PORTION OF AMOCO CONCESSIONARY BLOCK 305. HE CARPED THAT USG SEEMS UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO STOP ISRAELIS FROM DRILLING IN EGYPTIAN TERRITORY. HE IMPLIED (AS MFA LEGAL COUNSELOR NABIL AL-ARABY HAD EARLIER TO EMBOFFS) THAT US IS STALLING AND THAT THERE MAY IN FACT BE US-ISRAELI COLLUSION.

2. I TOLD FAHMY HE WAS DEAD WRONG. AS HE KNEW FROM OUR DISCUSSIONS OF 304.1 INCIDENT, WE OPPOSE THE ISRAELI ACTIVITIES IN THE EASTERN GULF OF SUEZ. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO THE ISRAELIS THAT USG CONSIDERS SUCH ACTIONS AS CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THAT AMERICAN CONCESSIONARIES, SUCH AS AMOCO, HAVE A RIGHT TO CONDUCT OIL DRILLING ACTIVITIES IN THOSE AREAS. THE MATTER WAS DISCUSSED AT THE SECRETARY-ALLON LEVEL. NOR DO WE APPROVE OF ISRAELI DRILLING IN EGYPTIAN GRANTED CONCESSION AREAS. THE ISRAELIS HAVE COUNTERED THAT THEY DO NOT ACCEPT OUR LEGAL INTERPRETATION AND HAVE CITED BRITISH INTERNATIONAL LAW AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF THEIR CASE. IN THE CASE OF 304.1, WE HAVE SOUGHT TO WORK OUT THE ISSUE ON A PRAGMATIC BASIS, BUT ARE STILL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 16521 291619Z

AWIATING A GOI REPLY.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THAT PART OF 305 WHERE THE ISRAELI RIG IS NOW DRILLING, I POINTED OUT THAT IT IS THAT PART OF AMOCO CONCESSION AREA GRANTED IN 1974. IN THE CASE OF CONCESSIONS GRANTED AFTER 1967, THE LEGAL ISSUE IS NOT QUITE AS CLEAR AS IT IS WITH CONCESSIONS GRANTED BEFORE 1967. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, FAHMY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE MIGHT BE A LEGAL DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE TWO, BUT STILL INSISTED THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE "POACHING" ON AN EGYPTIAN OIL FIELD. HE ASKED TO BE ADVISED WHAT USG IS DOING ABOUT THIS MATTER.

4. AS A SEPARATE MATTER, WE ARE INFORMED BY UK EMBOFF THAT THE ISRAELI RIG IN BLOCK 305 IS OWNED BY BRITISH BEN LINE/ ODEC AND IS CURRENTLY BEING OPERATED BY TRANS WORLD, AN AMERICAN FIRM. ONCE GOE HEARS OF THIS, WE MAY EXPECT FURTHER PROTEST.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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